

Claims

1. A system for facilitating a customer to purchase a bundle of products from a vendor comprising:

a server system adapted to allow the production of a virtual bundle of products to be sold at an electronic commerce site of a vendor, the products to be bundled being selected from a number of selectable products; and

a virtual-bundle selection computer, the virtual-bundle selection computer being operably connectable to the server system, wherein the virtual bundle selection computer is adapted to provide bundle-selection data to the server system without intervention by the vendor, the server system being adapted to use the bundle-selection data to produce the virtual bundle at the electronic commerce site.

2. The system of Claim 1 wherein the virtual bundle is available from a custom store web page for the group.

3. The system of Claim 2 wherein the database stores configuration data for the server system to construct their custom web site.

4. The system of Claim 1 wherein the virtual bundle comprises a computer system which can be purchased by the members of the group.

5. The system of Claim 1 wherein the virtual bundle data is stored in the database in a modified form from the data received from the virtual-bundle selection computer.

6. The system of Claim 1 wherein the server system produces an administration web page for the person to select the virtual bundles.

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein the administration web page includes a display list of products that can be bundled.
8. The system of Claim 6 wherein the administration web page includes a publish command that causes the virtual bundle selections to be updated in the database.
9. The system of Claim 6 wherein the administration web page allows the administrator to modify a custom web page.
10. The system of Claim 1 wherein the electronic commerce site is a custom store constructed using an I.D. in the URL.
11. The system of Claim 1 wherein the group comprises an institution.
12. The system of Claim 1 wherein the electronic commerce site is dynamically produced using data from the database.
13. The system of Claim 12 wherein the price of the virtual bundle of products is dynamically calculated.
14. The system of Claim 1 further comprising reconciliation software that checks the bundle selection data in the database for obsolete products.
15. The system of Claim 1 wherein the server system comprises a web server and application server.

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16. A computer-readable medium containing a program which executes the following procedure:

as a result of virtual-bundle data sent from an virtual-bundle selection computer, storing the virtual-bundle data in a database, and

providing a virtual bundle of products to be sold at an electronic commerce site of a vendor, the products to be bundled being selected from a number of selectable products, the virtual bundle being suitable for purchase by a member of a group other than the vendor, the producing step using the virtual-bundle data stored in the database.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the virtual bundles are available at a custom store web page for the group created from data in the database.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the bundle comprises computer systems for purchase.

19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the data is modified before being stored in database.

20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein an administration web page is used to allow the user at the virtual-bundle selection computer to produce the virtual bundle of products.

21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 20 wherein the display list of products at the administration web page is created is shown to indicate which products can be bundled.

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22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the group comprises an institution.

23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 wherein the electronic commerce site is dynamically created.

24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 23 wherein the price of the virtual bundle is dynamically calculated.

25. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16 further comprising of reconciliation software to check the bundle selection data in the database to determine whether obsolete products are contained in the virtual bundle.

26. A method comprising:

as a result of virtual-bundle data sent from a virtual-bundle selection computer, storing the virtual-bundle data in a database, and

providing a virtual bundle of products to be sold at an electronic commerce site of a vendor, the products to be bundled being selected from a number of selectable products, the virtual bundle being suitable for purchase by a member of a group other than the vendor, the producing step using the virtual-bundle data stored in the database.

27. The method of Claim 26 wherein the electronic commerce site is a custom store web page for group.

28. The method of Claim 26 wherein the virtual bundles comprise computer systems for purchase.

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29. The method of Claim 26 wherein the bundle selection data is stored in the database in a modified form from the data received from the virtual-bundle selection computer.

*Del ai* 30. The method of Claim 26 wherein the user of the virtual-bundle selection computer has an administration web page which allows the user at the administration virtual-bundle selection computer to bundle products into the virtual bundle.

31. The method of Claim 30 wherein the administration web page includes a display list of products that can be bundled.

32. The method of Claim 26 wherein the group comprises an institution.

33. The method of Claim 26 wherein the electronic commerce site is dynamically produced.

34. The method of Claim 33 wherein the discounts for the products in the bundle are dynamically created at the time of the creation of the electronic commerce site.

*Del ai* 35. The method of Claim 26 further comprising reconciling the products in the virtual bundle with the master list of available products.

36. An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving virtual-bundle data sent from an virtual-bundle selection computer and for storing the virtual-bundle data in a database, and

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means for providing a virtual bundle of products to be sold at an electronic commerce site of a vendor, the products to be bundled being selected from a number of selectable products, the virtual bundle being suitable for purchase by a member of a group other than the vendor, the providing means using the virtual-bundle data stored in the database to produce the virtual bundle of products.

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37. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the electronic commerce site comprises a custom store web page for a group.

38. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the bundle comprises of a computer system for purchase.

39. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the bundle selection data is stored in the database in a modified form from the data received from the virtual-bundle selection computer.

40. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising means for creating an administration web page to allow the user at the virtual-bundle selection computer to select the virtual bundles.

41. The system of Claim 40 wherein the administration web page producing means comprises a display list of products that can be bundled into virtual bundles.

42. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the group comprises an institution.

43. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the electronic commerce site is dynamically constructed.

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44. The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein the price of the virtual bundle is dynamically calculated during the creation of the virtual bundle.

45. The apparatus of Claim 36 further comprising reconciliation means which checks the bundle selection data to determine whether any obsolete products are contained in the bundle selection data.

46. The apparatus of Claim 36 wherein the apparatus comprises a server system.

47. The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein the server system comprises a web server and a application server.

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